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News Release

ICE ARRESTS BELIZEAN DRUG TRAFFICKER

MIAMI—A 46-year-old Belizean drug trafficker linked to the Andrew "Papa" Brown drug smuggling organization based in Belize City, Belize was arrested here Thursday by special agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Steve Reneau was indicted by a federal grand jury in Miami in Dec. 2003. He was charged with federal drug conspiracy based on a 1999 43 pound cocaine seizure at Port Everglades in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

The Andrew "Papa" Brown drug smuggling organization is responsible for smuggling cocaine into the United States. The organization is headed by Andrew and Floyd Brown. The brothers are currently detained in Belize based on a U.S. extradition request. Both were charged in the same indictment as Reneau.

"We will continue working with our law enforcement partners to ensure that drug traffickers experience the full weight of the law," said John Paletti, acting special agent-in-charge in Miami.

The investigation into the case was led by ICE with the assistance of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO).

Reneau is currently in U.S. Marshals custody at the Federal Detention Center (FDC) awaiting the outcome of his case.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Andrea Hoffman. The public is reminded that an indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial and the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

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